



Library

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE
BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH
AND MELCOMBE REGIS FOR
THE YEAR 1956



—
E. J. GORDON WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health



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Melcombe Regis for the year 1956



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

E. J. GORDON WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

CHARLOTTE A. G. WARD, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

†*‡ H. HANDSCOMB

District Sanitary Inspectors :

†* R. G. S. NEWBOULD, M.S.I.A.

†* A. L. HARRIS, M.S.I.A.

† Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board

* Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

‡ Smoke Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

Clerical Staff :

Mr. F. H. HOUSE

Miss M. S. STEELE

HEALTH CENTRE,
WESTHAM ROAD,
WEYMOUTH

September, 1957

**To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the Year 1956 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

From the epidemiological point of view 1956 was a quiet year. There was only one notification of poliomyelitis and that was a non-paralytic case.

Food poisoning however, resulting in 82 notifications, 75 of these relating to holiday residents in a hotel on the outskirts of the Borough. These cases were investigated in great detail but no satisfactory explanation could be found for the outbreak.

In this instance it was unfortunately necessary to invoke the provisions of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953. It was soon apparent, however, that these Regulations are of little practical value in enforcing the medical examination of a person suspected to be a carrier of food poisoning organisms.

During the year, work continued on the Preston Drainage Scheme and at the time of writing, main drainage facilities, for which they have waited so long, are now available to householders in that area. It is greatly to be hoped that arrangements can be made for this service to be extended so that the many unsatisfactory bucket closets in the large caravan camps can be done away with at last. It is understood that the camping site licensees are anxious to make use of this opportunity and I trust that the necessary co-operation will be forthcoming.

The shortage of housing accommodation in the Borough continues to be acute and the Public Health Inspectors spent a considerable amount of time investigating claims for re-housing on public health grounds. It is obvious that houses are still

occupied which are, in fact, unfit for human habitation, and the Report indicates the steady progress which has been made in dealing with these unfit properties.

I am again happy to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation in the work of the Department afforded by my professional colleagues in practice in the Borough.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and my fellow officials and the Health Department Staff for their unfailing assistance throughout the year.

In particular I wish to say how much I appreciate the very valuable contribution to the efficiency of the Department made by Mr. H. Handscomb, Chief Public Health Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

E. J. GORDON WALLACE,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) excluding 331 acres of tidal water	7,017
Mid-year Home Population (estimated by the Registrar General)	37,850
Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses (31st Mar., 1957)	*11,465
Rateable Value (31st March, 1957)	£642,187
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1956-57) ...	£2,573

* Apparent reduction in numbers is a result of the new description of "houses" at the 1956 revaluation.

CHIEF INDUSTRIES & EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

I am indebted to Mr. P. Harrison, Manager of the Weymouth Employment Exchange, for the following information :—

Registered Wholly Unemployed Persons

	1954			1955			1956		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
March	207	182	389	129	124	253	146	110	256
June	135	39	174	63	22	85	68	13	81
September	103	46	149	62	25	87	100	19	119
December	170	153	323	118	135	253	163	104	267

The main industries in this area are :

- Building and Civil Engineering
- Nationalised Industries
- Local and National Government Services
- Engineering
- Distributive
- Hotel and Catering
- Transport
- Shipping and Ship Repairing
- Railways
- Laundries
- Breweries
- Bakeries
- Radio Equipment Manufacture
- Electrical and Scientific Instrument Manufacture
- Agriculture
- Garages

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF BOROUGH SUPPLIED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR 1956

Total Births—594.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—15.69

Comparability Factor—1.04

Standardised Birth Rate—16.31

Live Births—583

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	283	273	556
Illegitimate	...	13	14	27
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	... ..	296	287	583
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—12.76

Stillbirths—11

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	5	5	10
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	... ..	6	5	11
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—0.29

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—18.51

Deaths—513. Males—258. Females—255.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population—13.55

Comparability Factor—0.91

Standardised Death Rate—12.33

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	6	5	11
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	... ..	6	5	11
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality Rates

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	18.86
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			19.78
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	...	...	12.0
Deaths from Puerperal Causes		...	Nil

TOTAL DEATHS, 1956. (Registrar General's Official Returns)

All Causes—513. Males—258. Females—255.

Cause of Death.			Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	1	2
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	...	...	...
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
8.	Measles	...	...	...
9.	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	9	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	12	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	1	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	25	28
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	2	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	37	42
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	56	37
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	5	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	26	43
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	9	11
22.	Influenza	...	2	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	12	17
24.	Bronchitis	...	7	6
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	5	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	2	...
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	2	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	3	...
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	6	...
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...
31.	Congenital malformations	...	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	25	22
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	3	1
34.	All other accidents	...	3	6
35.	Suicide	...	3	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...
TOTAL			258	255

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate

The standardised birth rate of 16.31 per thousand is approximately the same as that for the previous year (16.67). Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 70.

Deaths

The total number of deaths was 513—258 males and 255 females—giving a crude death rate of 13.55 per thousand population. By applying the Comparability Factor the Standardised Death Rate is found to be 12.33. (The Comparability Factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standardised death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude death rates.)

Of the eleven deaths of infants under 1 year, seven occurred during in the neo-natal period (under four weeks of age).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 323 notifications of measles, 307 being received during the first quarter of the year—a continuation of the wave of infection experienced during the last half of 1955 when over 600 cases were notified.

Only 12 cases of whooping cough were notified.

There were no deaths from either of these infectious diseases.

An outbreak of food poisoning is described later in this Report.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis

Early in 1956 the Ministry of Health outlined their scheme for the vaccination against poliomyelitis of children born in the years 1947-1954. This was the responsibility of the Dorset County Council as Local Health Authority and it is gratifying to report that the acceptance rate in the South Dorset area was 53.3% of all eligible children. Only in one or two other areas throughout the country was there a higher acceptance rate. In view of the stringent safety precautions taken before any of this vaccine is released for use, supplies have naturally been somewhat restricted. However, as more vaccine becomes available, it is anticipated that the undoubted protection which the vaccine confers, will be offered to other age groups so that in time the disease will be conquered by this new preventive measure.

Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953

These Regulations enable a Local Authority to authorise its Medical Officer of Health to take the prescribed action in an emergency in order to prevent the spread of infection, when it is known that a person is suffering from or is shown to be a carrier of typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever or other salmonella infection, or dysentery or a staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning. Shortly after the Regulations came into force, the Town Council passed a resolution authorising me to take appropriate action in any such case.

When, however, the Medical Officer of Health has reason to believe that a person engaged in the preparation and handling of food may be a carrier of such food poisoning organisms, the Regulations state that before taking any action, he, the Medical Officer of Health, must report the matter to his Local Authority who may then give notice, in writing, to the responsible manager of the trade or business concerned, that they consider it necessary for the Medical Officer of Health to make a medical examination of the suspected person and the responsible manager is then required to give the Medical Officer of Health all reasonable assistance in the matter.

This action had to be taken in dealing with the outbreak of food poisoning referred to later in this Report, and it was at once obvious that in dealing with a suspected carrier of food poisoning organisms the Regulations were of no practical value in that the person concerned refused to be examined although the manager gave all reasonable assistance. To make the Regulations of positive value it would seem necessary that they should specify that the suspected person must agree to be medically examined, but it may be, of course, that Parliament was not prepared to make it a statutory requirement that any such person be forced to submit to a medical examination.

In the meantime the Town Council has authorised me to issue any Notice on their behalf under Paragraph 5 of Part III of the 4th Schedule of the Regulations should similar circumstances arise in the future.

Superannuation

During the year 62 persons were medically examined and found fit for inclusion in the Council's Superannuation Scheme.

Laboratory Facilities

The County Laboratory at Dorchester, under the direction of Dr. T. V. Cooper, and the separate Public Health Laboratory there, under Dr. G. H. Tee, have given every possible assistance in the work of the Health Department and their ready co-operation at all times has been very much appreciated.

INFESTATION.

Scabies and Head Infestation.

The tables which follow show that there was an increase in cases of head infestation while there was a record low number of cases of Scabies.

It will be remembered that Scabies is a notifiable disease in the Borough.

SCABIES

Year	Total No. notified	No. Notified by Practitioner	No. Notified by Public Health Dept.	Total Number of Treatments (incl. contacts)
1944	598	124	474	1882
1945	275	72	203	1078
1946	198	63	135	992
1947	80	32	48	599
1948	71	23	48	241
1949	26	6	20	67
1950	30	7	23	54
1951	9	3	6	15
1952	16	6	10	25
1953	19	3	16	31
1954	11	2	9	18
1955	6	2	4	10
1956	3	3	—	4

HEAD INFESTATION

Year	Number of Infested Persons	Adult	School	Under 5	Total No. of Treatments
1944	594	148	411	35	894
1945	305	87	283	35	405
1946	310	117	203	40	461
1947	164	40	96	28	304
1948	143	19	110	14	266
1949	106	13	80	13	197
1950	109	20	71	18	173
1951	99	11	78	10	184
1952	70	6	60	4	83
1953	53	4	47	2	57
1954	24	1	21	2	36
1955	35	1	32	2	53
1956	52	5	43	4	56

Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during 1956

[illegible][illegible]

Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis, 1948-1956

Year	Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths	
1948	...	6	—	27	12
1949	...	18	2	35	7
1950	...	4	1	30	12
1951	...	3	—	31	6
1952	...	1	—	28	4
1953	...	12	1	37	10
1954	...	4	1	24	3
1955	...	4	—	26	1
1956	...	5	—	25	3

Verminous Premises

Verminous premises are treated with liquid and powder insecticides and, where necessary, articles of clothing and bedding are treated in the Department's steam disinfector plant.

Facilities are available at the Health Centre for personal cleansing and as far as possible the treatment of persons, their clothing and premises is carried out at one time.

The number of houses disinfested was 28—a decrease of four on the previous year. Of this number two were infestations by bed bugs, ten minor flea infestations, and the remainder were minor infestations by flies, cockroaches or beetles.

Verminous Persons

As it is desirable that arrangements for dealing with verminous persons should be carried out with a minimum of delay, the Town Council, in June, 1953, delegated their powers and duties under Section 85 of the Public Health Act, 1936, including the institution of legal proceedings, to a special committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one other member of the Health Committee.

It was not necessary to take any statutory action for dealing with verminous persons during the year.

Disinfector Station

In 1952, the Town Council agreed to a scheme for transferring the Disinfector Station from its present site to one adjoining the Health Centre.

The present Disinfector Station, which is also used for disinfestation purposes, is a considerable distance from the Health Centre and can be approached only through premises owned by the British Electricity Authority or the Southern Gas Board. The building has no soil drainage system and this has added to working difficulties.

During 1956 negotiations continued with the British Electricity Authority for the sale to them of the present premises and with the Dorset County Council for the purchase of the disused Ambulance Garage adjoining the Health Centre for adaptation as a Disinfector Station. It is hoped that the new Disinfector Station adjoining the Health Centre will be completed during 1957.

Food Poisoning

One outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year and seven single cases were reported and investigated.

With regard to the seven single cases, in no instances were samples of the suspected foods available for bacteriological examination. Three samples of faeces were however examined and salmonella enteriditis was isolated from one of these. With this exception, the causative organisms responsible for the seven single cases were not found.

The one outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the months of July and August at an hotel. Altogether 75 cases were notified during these two months. Very detailed investigations were carried out but unfortunately it was not possible to obtain specimens except from a very small number of patients.

Specimens were submitted from the kitchen staff on one occasion and second specimens were submitted from a certain number of the kitchen staff, all with negative results.

It was not until the 17th August that a specimen of vomit was available and from this the laboratory was able to identify the causative organism as salmonella typhi-murium.

It was unfortunately necessary for a formal notice to be served under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1953, but the hotel Chef still refused to be examined. He eventually agreed and detailed investigations were carried out but these proved negative.

Moore's swabs were placed in the hotel drainage system but no positive results were recorded.

Humane Killer for Cats and Dogs

The apparatus supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. operated satisfactorily throughout the year. The number of animals dealt with was 425 which is an increase of nine on the previous year.

I must again record my thanks to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the continued loan of the apparatus.

Details of animals dealt with during 1956 are as follows :

Dogs	...	...	137
Cats	...	...	288
			—
Total	...		425
			—

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Mr. F. Horner, the local inspector for the R.S.P.C.A., continued in his appointment as an honorary officer of the Corporation for the purposes of the Act. The total number of inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and Mr. Horner was 56.

Six applications for renewal of licences to keep Pet Shops were received and granted.

An application was received from a large multiple store for a Pet Shop licence, but after careful consideration the Health Committee decided to refuse the application.

In all cases where licences were granted appropriate conditions relating to the humane treatment of animals were attached to licences.

Mortuary

The Town Mortuary in Commercial Road was not used during the year and all post-mortem examinations were carried out at the Weymouth and District Hospital where more satisfactory facilities are available.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Under this Act and the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, the Town Council is empowered to take steps to secure the removal to suitable accommodation of persons in need of care and attention.

During the year eleven cases were dealt with.

In one case only was it necessary to take any statutory action.

This involved a batchelor, 74 years of age, who was living alone in very insanitary conditions. His memory was failing and on one occasion he turned on the taps of the gas stove, forgot to apply a match, and was probably saved from disaster by the timely arrival of a Health Visitor.

He refused to have a Home Help and appeared to rely for his food on a kindly neighbour. Conditions became so bad that arrangements had to be made for his urgent removal to an Old Peoples' Home for a period of three weeks. On the expiry of the three weeks an application was made to the Magistrates for an extension for three months and, during this time, the old man wisely decided to remain in the Home and gave up the tenancy of his house in Weymouth.

Of the remaining ten cases, four continued at home and were assisted by the Home Help service, four remained at home and were able to manage without outside help and two agreed to go to Part III accommodation.

I am very pleased to report once again that the County Council's Home Help Service proved of great value during the year. This service enables very many old people to continue living in their own homes—whereas, without such help, they would of necessity have to be removed to Old People's Homes.

A considerable number of visits were made by the Health Visitors, Public Health Inspectors and myself to the homes of old people in the Borough and all cases dealt with by the Department are kept under periodic review.

At the end of the year the Town Council had 44 Old Person's Bungalows and plans had been made for 48 more as follows :

Newstead Road	...	4
Littlemoor Estate	...	8
Sussex Road	... ..	36

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply in the Borough is provided by the Weymouth Waterworks Company, the main supplies being from springs at Empool and Sutton Poyntz. The water, being fairly hard, does not give rise to danger from plumbo-solvent action, and both quality and quantity have been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. No outbreaks of illness which could be traced to the water have occurred and it may be said that the supply continues to be very good for drinking and domestic purposes and shows a high degree of purity.

The closest co-operation is maintained with the Engineer and Manager, Mr. S. E. Barrett, A.M.Inst.C.E., and there is constant exchange of the results of samples taken by the Company and Health Department.

SUMMARY OF BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

Total Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Suspicious
46	46	—	—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Samples taken on 15th October, 1956.

15-in. Outlet
Chalbury

Fountain
Empool

Physical Examination :

Colour	...	None	None
Appearance	...	Bright	Bright
Taste and Smell	...	Normal	Normal

General Chemical Examination :

Reaction	...	pH 7.4	pH 7.2
		Parts per million	
Free Carbon Dioxide as CO_2		5.5	18.7
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N.		0.02	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N.	Less than	0.01	0.01
Nitrous Nitrogen as N.		Absent	Absent
Nitric Nitrogen as N.		2.6	4.1
Hardness as CaCO_3 (EDTA Method)			
Temporary	...	180	220
Permanent	...	28	32
Permanganate figure (4 hrs. 80° F.) as O		0.04	0.05
Alkalinity as CaCO_3	...	180	220
Total Solids	...	290	340
Calcium as Ca	...	82	98
Magnesium as Mg.	...	1	2
Sodium as Na.	...	11.5	11.0
Carbonate as CO_3	...	108	132
Chloride as Cl.	...	23.5	24
Sulphate as SO_4	...	6.5	10
Nitrate as NO_3	...	11	18
Iron	...	0.10	0.13
Fluoride as F.	less than	0.05	0.08

Method of Fluoride determination :

Concentration in alkaline solution distillation from perchloric acid, and photo-electric estimation of inhibition of zirconium-alizarin reaction.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Preston Drainage Scheme

Work on the Preston Drainage Scheme was commenced in the middle of 1955 and continued throughout 1956.

During the year the Corporation's Consulting Engineers expressed concern with regard to the amount of surface water which was likely to be discharged to the new drainage system. It was believed that there were many existing houses where surface water from roofs was discharged to the soil drains and it was thought that the amount of surface water reaching the new sewerage system in this way would be of such volume as to lead to early overloading of the sewers. This problem was considered by the Consulting Engineers, the Borough Engineer, Town Clerk and myself and subsequently a visit was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to obtain their views. The Ministry supported our view that the only way to find the extent of the problem would be the carrying out of a complete survey of the drainage area.

The survey was made the responsibility of the Health Department and Mr. A. R. Smith of the Borough Engineer's Department was seconded to the Health Department in order to carry out this work. The survey was started in August, 1956, and was completed towards the end of October.

The survey proved that the problem was not so great as had been anticipated and only 150 houses in the whole drainage area had some of their surface water connected to the soil drains. The amounts, of course, varied but it was decided that an endeavour should be made to exclude from the new sewerage system all surface water from existing houses in the drainage area. A scheme was then approved by the Town Council whereby owners of each of the 150 houses should, when arranging for connection to the new sewer, be offered payment by the Corporation for the cost of separation of surface water from the soil drains, provided the estimate submitted by the owners was considered reasonable. If the Council considered the owner's estimate unreasonable they might then offer to carry out the work of separation themselves by direct labour without cost to the owner.

Unfortunately there were a number of delays early in 1957 which prevented the new sewerage scheme from coming into operation and it now appears likely that the new sewers will not be available for use until the Summer of 1957.

I mentioned in my last report that the Council decided not to proceed with the scheme of separate drainage of the Jordon

Valley. At the end of 1956 the Council again raised this question and the Consulting Engineers were asked to look into the matter and report back their views to the Town Council.

A number of enquiries were received during 1956 from the licensees of camping sites in Preston with regard to provision of modern sanitary conveniences on their sites. The capacity of the new sewerage scheme is such that it will take the drainage of all the existing camping sites but in only very few cases can they be drained by gravity to the new system. I am, of course, very concerned with regard to the present unsatisfactory form of sanitation employed in the Preston camping sites and I hope that the Town Council will, during 1957, have arrived at some scheme whereby all the present sites may be permitted to provide modern drainage connected to the new sewers. I am pleased to say that all licensees in the area wish to do this and to do away with the unsatisfactory bucket system at the earliest possible opportunity.

2. Drainage of part of Goldcroft Estate

In my reports for 1954 and 1955 I mentioned a small area of Goldcroft Estate for which main drainage was not provided. Cesspools which served houses in this area had given rise to complaints for many years. A scheme was completed in 1956 for the Corporation to lay a new sewer to serve this area. The owners of the houses agreed to pay for the construction of the necessary private sewers to be laid at the rear of their houses and the scheme was carried out during 1956. This work resulted in 36 cesspools and one pail closet being abolished.

3. Drainage of part of Southill Area

Following the Health Committee's representations with regard to the unsatisfactory drainage in the Southill Area, the Borough Engineer reported to the Health Committee in June 1956 that a scheme had been prepared for sewerage of the area. The scheme was still under consideration at the end of the year.

4. Wyke Regis Disposal Works

I reported in 1955 that a scheme had been approved, and had been put out to tender, to improve conditions at the Wyke Regis Sewage Disposal Works. The major part of this work involved the culverting of a stream which was being used as a storm water overflow during heavy rain. The culverting of the stream was completed during the year and this did away with considerable public health nuisances which arose during the summer months in previous years.

The Town Council's Consulting Engineers were during the year dealing with a scheme for improvements to the storm water outfalls to Portland Harbour and this matter was still outstanding at the end of the year.

5. Conversions to Main Drainage

There are still a large number of cesspools in use in areas where main sewers are already available. Efforts continue to be made to have these cesspools abolished by connection of house drains to the main sewers where it is at all possible.

During the year 52 houses were connected to the main drainage system and as a result of this a total of 39 cesspools and six pail closets were abolished.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN BOROUGH

Total number of houses in the Borough	...	...	11,465
Number of properties not connected to sewer	...	...	831
Number of properties with cesspools	...	...	618
Number of cesspools	...	...	532
Number of properties with pail closets	...	...	195
Number of properties with privies	...	...	3
Number of properties with other forms of drainage	...	...	15

These are estimated figures only

PARTICULARS OF CONVERSION FROM CONSERVANCY TO MAIN DRAINAGE SYSTEM DURING 1956

Number of premises converted	...	...	52
Number of cesspools abolished	...	...	39
Number of earth closets abolished	...	...	6

HOUSING

Unfit Houses

During the year good progress was made in dealing with unfit houses.

I mentioned in my last report that the Council had informed the Minister of Housing and Local Government that they proposed dealing with 155 unfit houses within five years.

The majority of the procedure connected with unfit houses has, of necessity, to be carried out during the winter months as the Health Department is fully occupied from June to the end of September with special problems arising in connection with the holiday season—such as camping sites, caravans, food hygiene, etc.

Statutory action was taken in respect of the following houses during the year :

(a) Clearance Orders made under Part III Housing Act, 1936

A Clearance Order was confirmed by the Minister in respect of Nos. 168, 168a, 168b, 170, 170a and 170b Chickerell Road, Weymouth, which were declared a Clearance Area in 1955.

Late in 1956 the Town Council declared Nos. 16, 18, 20 and 22 Wyke Road, Weymouth, to be a Clearance Area but action was not completed by the end of the year.

(b) Compulsory Purchase Orders Confirmed—Part III, Housing Act, 1936

Nos. 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50 Newstead Road, Weymouth, were represented as a Clearance Area and purchased under a Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed by the Minister during the year.

(c) Demolition Orders made under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936

1, Herbert Place.

68, Lower St. Edmund Street.

1, 2, 3 and 4, Albert Cottages.

70 and 72, Franchise Street.

(All represented during 1956.)

(d) Closing Orders made under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936, or Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

Mill Cottage, Mill Street, Broadwey.

Frederick Cottage, Gt. George Street.

10 and 12, St. Leonard's Road.

54, High Street, Wyke Regis.

Basement of 6, Frederick Place.

(e) Undertakings given by owners that houses would not be used for human habitation until made fit—Section 11 Housing Act, 1936.

Treetops Cottage, Shrubbery Lane, Wyke Regis (represented in 1955).

215, Preston Road, Preston (represented in 1955).

14 and 16, St. Leonard's Road (represented under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, in 1956).

(f) Offers of Works Accepted

56, Sutton Road, Preston (represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, during the year).

(g) Houses made fit following action under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Undertakings Cancelled

Ground floor flat, Wesley Cottage, Wesley Street.

(h) Houses Demolished

18 and 20 Franchise Street (subject to demolition orders made in May, 1939).

32 and 33 East Street (subject to demolition orders made in October, 1953).

48 and 50 Newstead Road (subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order made and confirmed by the Ministry in August, 1956).

The Myrtles, Radipole (subject to informal action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936—Council owned property).

(i) **Unfit Houses represented under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, but action not completed by end of year**

Rambler Cottage, Shrubbery Lane, Wyke Regis.

122, High Street, Wyke Regis.

Front Basement Flat, 12, Clarence, Buildings.

16 Commercial Road.

3 and 4, Alma Place, Radipole.

Tumbledown Farm, Radipole Village.

18, 19 and 20, Lennox Street.

(j) **Houses made Fit after Informal or Statutory Action**

Fifty-six Houses were made fit during the year following the service of Informal or Statutory Notices.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Position at 31st December, 1956

Premises	Still occupied as dwellings	Used as Store or work-places	Vacant	Total
Houses subject to Demolition or Clearance Orders not yet demolished	12	6	14	32
Parts of Buildings subject to Closing Orders	3	3	5	11
Houses subject to Closing Orders	7	—	4	11
Houses subject to U/D not to re-let for human habitation	2	3	13	18
Houses subject to U/D to make fit	1	—	1	2

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Certificates of Disrepair

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, contains provision for increasing the rents of houses where the owners have complied with certain conditions with regard to repairs and maintenance.

Where tenants oppose the payment of increased rents on the grounds that the house is not in a good state of repair they may apply to the local authority for a Certificate of Disrepair.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

One application for Revocation of a Certificate of Disrepair granted the previous year was received and granted.

Applications for re-housing

Once again a considerable amount of time was spent during the year on the investigation of claims by housing applicants for priority recommendations on public health grounds. Two hundred and thirteen visits were made in connection with such applications.

It appears that this work will continue to form part of the routine duty of the Health Department in the future. It was once thought, as the years went by, that the housing shortage would be met but from the number of applicants still asking for assistance from the Health Department it appears that the local authority's housing problem is as great as ever. The Housing Allocation Sub-Committee gives very sympathetic consideration to all cases reported to them by the Health Department on grounds of ill-health or overcrowding. The Health Department works in close co-operation with the Borough Treasurer who is responsible for administration in connection with houses owned by the Town Council.

Each applicant who calls at the Health Department is given a sympathetic hearing, a report is prepared following a home visit and a departmental discussion is held to assess the real need in each case.

The Chief Public Health Inspector attends each meeting of the Housing Allocation Sub-Committee to present the Department's views on applications which claim special consideration on grounds of ill-health or overcrowding.

MOSQUITO AND MIDGE CONTROL

(1) Radipole Lake

In April, 1956, sea water was again introduced into Radipole Lake in an endeavour to reduce mosquito and midge breeding. Between the 23rd and 29th April as much fresh water as possible was drained from the lake which was then refilled with sea water when the tides were favourable.

The weather during the summer of 1956 was rather poor and this might have had some bearing on the fact that mosquito and

midge breeding was on a relatively small scale. Few complaints were received with regard to mosquitoes in the areas around the Lake and it might well be that the re-introduction of sea water helped towards lessening the infestation. It is proposed to continue the introduction of sea water into Radipole Lake during the Spring of 1957.

Tipping operations north of the railway viaduct were continued during the winter months in order to provide a large car park. The work was not completed by the end of the year.

(2) Lodmoor

Early in the year the clearing of dykes on land behind St. Andrew's Avenue and Hayward's Avenue was commenced. At the end of March the Town Council made application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a loan of £1,600 for major land drainage works at Lodmoor. This work involved dredging out the main channels which were badly silted up and the construction of drainage grips on land bordering the main channels. Loan sanction was granted and work was commenced at the end of August and continued until the end of November. Dredging of the main channels resulted in restoring a satisfactory flow of water to the outfall at Greenhill. The dredging of the main northern channel has still to be carried out in order to complete works for which loan sanction was granted.

Bearing in mind the large area for potential mosquito breeding on Lodmoor the works of filling in and land drainage now being carried out can only be regarded as a small part of what will ultimately be required. This work will become more pressing when housing development is extended on the now undeveloped parts of Hayward's Estate.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

The licensed camping sites in the Borough were perhaps even busier than ever before in the Summer of 1956 and other fields in Preston were well used for tented camps by various organisations.

I am pleased to report once again that all licensees realised the importance of giving special attention to the hygiene of bucket closets but I must record my serious concern about this unsatisfactory form of sanitation especially now that all camps in Preston are each Summer filled to capacity.

It was apparent early in the season that some licensed sites had more caravans than were permitted by their licences. A check was made of all sites and action was taken to reduce numbers of caravans to conform with their conditions of licences.

In two such cases it was necessary to take statutory action to enforce compliance with the conditions relating to numbers and spacing of caravans. In the first instance, in addition to insufficient spacing between caravans, there were 181 too many caravans on the site. Each of the five joint licensees was fined £5 and the Magistrates ordered that caravans in excess of the permitted number should be removed from the site by 15th Sept., 1956, failing which a daily penalty of £2 would be imposed. The defendants failed to comply with the Magistrates order and further action was taken which resulted in the Magistrates making daily penalties which amounted to £40. I am pleased to report, however, that the licensees did take steps to comply with their conditions of licence directly the season was over and it is expected that there will be no further difficulties in these respects in the coming year.

In the second case, in addition to insufficient spacing between caravans, there were 128 caravans too many on the site. The defendant company was fined £5 and the Magistrates ordered that caravans in excess of the permitted number should be removed from the site by 15th September, 1956, failing which a daily penalty of £2 would be imposed. In this case also the defendant company failed to comply and further action resulted in daily penalties which amounted to £40.

Directly the season was over the licensees commenced removal of excess caravans and also started on re-spacing of all caravans so as to comply with the conditions of their licences in readiness for the Summer season of 1957.

In addition to the statutory action already referred to, many inspections of camps were made to ensure compliance and give advice generally on matters relating to conditions attached to site licences.

Complaints received in connection with caravan sites related in most cases to the bucket system of sanitation. However well this service is carried out complaints will continue to be received. This method is very distasteful to everyone—particularly to visitors from the towns who are understandably repulsed when finding such arrangements on arrival at their holiday sites.

Earlier in this Report I have referred to progress made with regard to the construction of the sewer to serve Preston, Sutton Poyntz and Overcombe and it is to be hoped that a scheme will be prepared enabling all camps in Preston to have a modern water carriage system of sanitation.

The Council did not proceed with a separate scheme of drainage of the Jordon Valley—which would serve all the camping sites without need for private pumping stations—but the Council's Consulting Engineers were asked, early in 1957, to reconsider such a Scheme.

Inspections in connection with caravans and camping sites numbered 272—which is almost double the number for the previous year. It is intended that this important aspect of the Health Department's work shall receive even more attention in the coming year and this is essential as caravanning and camping attracts more people to the Borough every year.

Even though I have unfortunately had to report on two cases where legal proceedings were taken, licensees otherwise co-operated very well with the Department and in this way many difficulties met during the year were overcome with the minimum delay. For this co-operation I record my thanks to all licensees of sites in the Borough.

Applications for Licences under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Five applications to use land for camping purposes were received during 1956. One of these applications was approved subject to conditions requiring satisfactory sanitary accommodation, water supply, etc. In this case it was possible to provide a modern system of sanitation as the Council's sewer was available.

In the four cases where licences were refused the reason for such refusal was that the Public Health requirements could not be met satisfactorily by the applicants.

Five applications for renewal of licences to station and use individual caravans were received and granted. In each case licences were issued for periods of six months only.

One new application for a licence to station and use an individual caravan was received and this was refused.

FOOD HYGIENE

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation on the 1st January, 1956, but certain provisions, which involved alterations to premises or equipment, were deferred until 1st July, 1956.

These Regulations represent a great advance in the law relating to the hygiene of all food premises and they replace Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and parts of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Previous legislation referred mainly to premises where food was "on sale" but the new Regulations apply whether or not there is any question of sale and so boarding houses now come within their scope. Canteens, clubs, schools and other institutions—as well as public and local authorities' food premises—are also covered by the Regulations.

The principal extensions of the previous law relate to :

- (1) Provision of sinks or other facilities for washing food and equipment.
- (2) Provision of a constant supply of hot water for sinks, wash basins, etc., in food premises.
- (3) Supply of hot water on stalls and vehicles.
- (4) Restrictions on the preparation and packing of food in or about domestic premises.
- (5) Conditions under which certain foods that provide a particularly favourable medium for food poisoning organisms are to be kept in food premises.
- (6) Requirements to provide vehicles used for the transport of meat with duck boards and separate receptacles for offal.
- (7) The circumstances in which persons carrying meat are required to wear overalls and head coverings.

Early in the year all food premises owned by the Corporation were inspected to ascertain the extent to which they fell short of the new Regulations. A report was submitted to the appropriate Committees and as a result plans were prepared for structural alterations to three premises. Owing to a number of difficulties no works had been commenced by the end of the year.

All beach stalls on sites owned by the Corporation have already been provided with mains water supplies and drainage and it was, therefore, comparatively easy for all these stalls to comply with the basic requirements of the Regulations. The Regulations include special provisions relating to stalls but the majority are the responsibility of the occupiers and their staffs.

Frequent inspections of beach stalls were made during the season and with a few exceptions it was found that the Regulations were being observed.

Special visits were made to all stalls and food vehicles throughout the Borough and advice was given on the new requirements. In most cases stall-holders co-operated very well and those selling open foods very quickly installed apparatus for the supply of hot water as required by Regulation No. 28.

A start was made on visiting all food shops to explain the Regulations but, owing to the many other commitments of the Department in the summer months, not all could be visited by the end of the year.

The total number of inspections of food premises, including stalls and vehicles, was 461. This is an increase of 106 on the previous year's total.

It was necessary to serve 41 Informal Notices in respect of contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or the Food Hygiene Regulations. These Notices covered 76 separate items and by the end of the year all had been remedied together with 24 other items which were outstanding from the previous year.

Food Hygiene—Educational Activity

During the year the Chief Public Health Inspector addressed three local Associations connected with the Food Industry on the subject of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

There is no Clean Food Guild in operation in the Borough.

Disposal of Condemned Food

All unsound food is disposed of by burial at the Corporation's Controlled Tip.

DETAILS OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE BOROUGH :

Number of licensed premises	...	...	...	...	99
Number of off-licences	...	...	...	...	17
Number of registered clubs	...	...	...	...	17
Number of chemists' shops	...	...	...	...	14
Number of butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	31
Number of bakers' shops	...	...	...	...	21
Number of fishmongers' shops	...	...	...	...	17
Number of grocers' shops	...	...	...	...	121
Number of bakehouses	...	...	...	...	20
Number of other food premises	...	...	...	...	214

REGISTERED PREMISES :

Number of premises registered for manufacture of preserved foods	30
Number of premises registered as fried fish shops	14
Number of premises registered for manufacture or sale of ice-cream	206

ICE CREAM

The number of inspections made of premises where ice-cream was manufactured, stored or on sale to the public was 129—an increase of 54 over the corresponding figure for 1955.

The number of samples taken was 55 and this shows an increase of 19 on the previous year.

Adverse samples were always followed up by visits to the premises concerned.

I am very pleased to record that the percentage of satisfactory samples over the year was 87.27% as compared with 75.68% for 1955.

At the end of the year 206 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream in the Borough. This number includes six premises where ice-cream is manufactured.

Ice Cream Sampling

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Grades				Void
	Passed	Failed	1	2	3	4	
55	48	7	37	11	5	2	—

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Grade 1 and 2	...	...	87.27% satisfactory
Grade 3 and 4	...	...	12.72% unsatisfactory

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947—1952

Mr. T. A. Hole of the Ministry of Health visited Weymouth in July, 1956, to see how the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947—1952, were operating in the Borough.

Visits were made to premises where ice-cream was manufactured and to a number of premises where ice-cream was on retail sale to the public.

The standard of hygiene in manufacturers' ice-cream premises was very good but in all cases they were not complying fully with the Regulations relating to the use of recording thermometers. Advice was given at the time of Mr. Hole's inspection and on subsequent inspections made by the District Public Health Inspectors.

MILK SUPPLIES

The responsibility for registration of dairy farms and farmers and the supervision of milk production at farms remained with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, except insofar as the Regulations relate to diseases communicable to man.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order 1954 which came into operation on the 1st April, 1954, no undesignated milk may be sold within the Borough.

The designations of milk which may be sold in Weymouth are :

Tuberculin Tested.
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised.
Pasteurised.
Sterilised.

It is interesting to note, however, that no sterilised milk is sold within the Borough.

At the end of the year entries on the Department's Register were as follows :

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Distributors of milk with premises within the Borough	42
Distributors of milk with premises outside the Borough but retailing within the Borough	2
Dairy farms distributing from within the Borough	1
Dairy farms distributing from outside the Borough	—
Premises registered as Dairies	9

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950. The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1953.

Dealers' licences to sell designated milk were granted as follows :

Pasteurised Milk	36
Tuberculin Tested Milk	37
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Supplementary)	1
Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary)	1

Milk Sampling

The number of samples taken by the Department for bacteriological examination was 230. Samples of heat treated milk taken in the Borough by Sampling Officers of the Dorset County Council numbered 323.

Dorset County Council is the licensing authority for Dealers who pasteurise or sterilise milk. There is one pasteurising plant in the Borough.

Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops during the year	131
Details of samples taken are as follows :	

Sample Designation	No. taken	Methylene Blue Test			Phosphatase Test	
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Void	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
T.T.	100	81	19	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	177	137	—	40	177	—
Pasteurised	276	209	—	67	276	—

It will be seen from the foregoing table that there were 19 failures of methylene blue test from 100 samples of T.T. milk. The majority of these failures were from two dealers and special action was taken in both cases. This resulted in satisfactory samples at the end of the year.

Summary of Results

Total number of samples taken	553
Total number classed as satisfactory	427
Total number classed as unsatisfactory	19
Total number classed as void	107
Number of samples taken for biological examination (all of which were satisfactory)	8

FOOD SUPPLIES

(1) MEAT INSPECTION

As will be seen from statistics later in this report, the number of animals slaughtered in the Borough during 1956 was only a little more than half the number slaughtered in the previous year. The majority of the home-killed meat consumed in Weymouth comes from slaughterhouses in the Borough of Dorchester and the area of Dorchester Rural District Council.

The Town Council continued to contribute towards the cost of meat inspection at Dorchester slaughterhouse. The rate of contribution varies annually and is based on the percentage of animals slaughtered in Dorchester for the Weymouth area.

In May, 1956, the Government issued a White Paper on policy to regulate the provision of slaughterhouses. This indicated a departure from the previous policy of moderate concentration of slaughterhouses and allows a period in which private traders may provide their own slaughterhouses. It is made clear, however, that new slaughterhouses must be built to prescribed standards. After the expiry of this period the report suggests that a measure of control will be re-imposed.

The Town Council adopted the model bye-laws for sanitary conditions and management of private slaughterhouses during the year and these came into operation on the 26th July, 1956.

Weymouth—Slaughterhouse/Bacon Factory

This slaughterhouse/bacon factory is licensed annually and slaughtering is carried out on two days each week. Every animal slaughtered on these premises during the year was inspected. The number of visits to the slaughterhouse during the year was 100, which shows a decrease of 56 on the previous year.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

Cows	Other Cattle	Sheep	Calves	Pigs	Total
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2240	2240

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

Number killed	...	...	...	...	2240
Number inspected	...	...	...	...	2240

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned				97
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	...	...	4.46%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned				29
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis				1.38%

MEAT CONDEMNED AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE/BACON FACTORY

Disease	Weight (lbs.)
Tuberculosis	753
Pleurisy and Pericarditis	354
Cirrhosis	138
Pneumonia	8
Abscesses	15
Peritonitis	18
Parasites and Cysts	26
Fever	157
Septic Wounds	14
Bruising	82
Nephritis	4

MEAT CONDEMNED—SUMMARY

	Weight (lbs.)
Tuberculosis	753
Other Diseases	816
Total weight condemned —14 cwts., 1 lb.	
No. of visits made to slaughterhouse—100	

Cysticercus Bovis

Carcases infested with localised cysticercus bovis must be placed in cold storage at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of not less than three weeks, or at a temperature not exceeding 14 degrees Fahrenheit for a period not less than two weeks.

Although no cattle are slaughtered in the Borough, the cold store owned by Messrs. Cosens and Co., Ltd., in West Street, Weymouth, is used by slaughterhouses outside the Borough for the refrigeration of infested carcasses.

In 1956, seventeen beef carcasses were sent to the cold store as against forty in the previous year. One other carcass was sent to a refrigerator in a butcher's shop but when a visit was made it was found that the temperature was rising above the permitted maximum of 20° F. This was put right immediately and the butcher advised on correct procedure for the future.

My thanks are due to Messrs. Cosens and Co., Ltd., for their co-operation in dealing with such carcasses and for ensuring that the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are rigorously carried out.

Licensing of Slaughtermen

During the year five applications were made for renewal of slaughtermen's licences and all were granted, subject to conditions as laid down in the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

(2) OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

CANNED GOODS

Meat Products	...	...	...	245 tins
Fish	...	...	...	89 tins
Milk	...	...	41 tins and	29 cases
Fruit	...	...	...	429 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	226 tins
Jam and Marmalade	...	...	...	5 tins
Soups	...	...	...	41 tins
Syrup	...	...	...	24 tins
Cream	...	...	...	5 tins
Olives	...	...	...	47 tins
Liquid Frozen Egg	...	...	...	29 tins
Rice	...	...	...	3 tins
Chicken	10 tins
Pudding	2 tins
Milk Powder	18 tins

MEAT.

Beef, Pork and Offal	1,041½ lbs.
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FISH.

Mixed Fish	238 lbs.
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OTHER FOODS

Butter and Margarine	126 lbs.
Lard	1 cwt.
Currants	56 lbs.
Cheese	100½ lbs.
Processed Cheese	...	...	...	2 boxes
Sweetened Fat	...	...	...	16 boxes
Dripping	...	...	3 boxes and	196 packets
Cocoa Butter	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Milk (liquid)	...	...	...	20 gallons
Peanut Butter	...	...	...	1 pot
Anchovy Paste	...	...	...	1 pot
Sandwich Spread	...	...	...	1 pot
Rissoles	...	...	...	8
Pies	...	...	...	2
Synthetic Cream	...	...	...	4 gallons
Eggs (shell)	...	...	...	15 dozen
Ice Cream Cones	...	...	...	5 boxes
Chocolate	...	...	...	18 slabs
Salad Cream	...	...	...	2 jars
Jelly Trifles	...	...	...	6 dozen
Chutney	...	...	...	½ gallon
Orange Drinks	...	...	...	80 cartons

RODENT CONTROL

Two Rodent Operators are employed in the Department and statistics relating to their work are given below.

In addition to the very large number of inspections made by the Rodent Operators, 85 special inspections in connection with rodent control were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

It is surprising to find that the number of complaints received during the year was 576—an increase of 42 on the previous year. One might expect that the number of complaints would be reduced each year but the rodent control service is now so widely known that householders very quickly call for the assistance of the Department at the first signs of any infestation.

When complaints are received a survey of the area in which the infestation is notified is always carried out and many compliments for this service were received during 1956. The statistics show what a tremendous amount of work is involved and I am well satisfied with the way in which this service is carried out.

The Borough receives a grant of 50% of its expenditure on rodent control from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

I am pleased to say that it was not necessary to take any statutory action during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Number of complaints received re rats and mice	...	576
Number of premises visited for Survey	...	2028
Number of premises given first treatment	...	724
Number of premises given second treatment	...	74
Number of premises given third treatment	...	2
Number of premises given routine treatment	...	13
Number of premises given re-infestation treatment	...	3
Number of visits made (Survey and Treatment)	...	5671
Number of pre-baits laid	...	7194
Number of pre-baits taken	...	4199
Number of poison baits taken	...	1056
Number of poison baits laid	...	1820

Control of Rats in Sewers

As in previous years two treatments of the sewers were carried out. The first treatment was followed by test baiting of those sewers which previously showed no signs of infestation.

The second treatment was carried out in November and a slightly different technique was used on the recommendation of the Ministry. Results gave an impression that the rate of infestation had increased. Very good weather conditions prevailed during the period of this treatment and results are regarded as a reasonably accurate picture of the extent of infestation in the sewers.

In an old town such as Weymouth, many sewers are "un-charted" and afford good harbourage for rats. For these reasons it is imperative that the routine sewer treatments are continued as only by this means can there be effective rodent control especially in the older parts of the Borough.

A summary of the results of the second treatment is recorded below :

November, 1956—Sewer Treatment No. 18

System or Section of System	No. of manholes	No. baited	No. of M.H's showing prebait taken	No. of M.H's showing complete prebait taken (on one or both days)	No Takes
Rodwell ...	251	61	28	17	33
Westham ...	279	59	32	19	27
Park ...	144	81	39	30	42
Town ...	63	38	17	13	21

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

In the section of this Report which deals with Caravans and Camping Sites I have referred to action which was necessary under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to enforce compliance with conditions attached to Camping Site Licences. This action resulted in legal proceedings being taken in two cases.

In no other cases was it necessary to take statutory action.

Sixteen Statutory Notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served during 1956, but all were complied with by the end of the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The supervision of public conveniences continued to be the responsibility of the Health Department.

Throughout the year the ejector at Brunswick Terrace convenience continued to be very unreliable. A scheme had been approved at the end of 1955 for provision of a completely new ejector plant at a cost of approximately £500 but at the end of 1956 the work had still not been carried out.

In my Report for 1955, I mentioned that a Public Enquiry was held in December of that year in connection with the Council's

plan to provide a new convenience for ladies on the sea front opposite York Buildings. Notification was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government early in 1956 to the effect that the Minister was satisfied that there was a need for an additional convenience for ladies but he did not consider the site selected to be a suitable one. For this reason the Minister decided not to approve the Council's proposals.

During the summer of 1956 there were once again queues outside the ladies' convenience on the sea front. Now that the Minister has refused permission for the convenience opposite York Buildings it will be necessary for the Council to reconsider the matter as the need for an additional convenience is more apparent each year.

Free hand washing facilities in public conveniences.

The facilities for free hand-washing in public conveniences where Attendants are employed was continued throughout 1956. This scheme was started in 1955 and I was able to report to the Health Committee early in 1956 that, as the scheme had been very successful in its first year, it would be well worth-while to continue.

The Town Council readily agreed to this and so free hand-washing facilities in public conveniences remained available throughout 1956.

In view of the limited size of the Wash and Brush-up Rooms in the conveniences on the sea front it was found that the scheme could not be operated during the months of July, August and September.

Bowleaze Cove

I have to report that Mr. L. Read of the Cove Cafe, Bowleaze Cove, built a public convenience near his cafe at Bowleaze Cove and it was opened to the public at Whitsun, 1956.

The Health Committee had previously considered provision of a public convenience at Bowleaze Cove but did not proceed with the scheme when Mr. Read indicated his intention to provide one. As there was no sewer available to serve this area the new convenience had to be drained to a septic tank and this involved considerable expenditure. The provision of this new convenience should avoid public health nuisances which have arisen in this area in the past.

Wilful Damage

I regret to say that quite considerable wilful damage occurred in the conveniences during the year and, although everything is being done to prevent this, it appears that wilful damage in unattended conveniences will continue to involve the Corporation in heavy expenditure on repairs.

Supervision of public conveniences

The supervision of public conveniences accounted for a considerable amount of the Public Health Inspectors' time and the number of special inspections made was 534.

At the end of the summer season I reported to the Health Committee that the time had arrived when the volume of work, particularly in connection with public conveniences, had increased to such an extent that consideration would have to be given to the appointment of an additional assistant in the Health Department. The Health Committee agreed to a new appointment being made to take effect before the summer of 1957.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Reason for Inspection	No. of premises visited	No. of visits including re-visits	Nuisances or defects found	Nuisances or defects remedied
Premises under P.H.A.	334	1372	180	236
Drainage Works Only				
(a) New Buildings	181	387	—	—
(b) Existing Buildings	71	510	120	103
Camping Sites, Vans,				
Tents	13	272	8	8
Food Premises ...	204	461	76	100
Dairies and Milk Shops	51	131	—	—
Factories Act ...	62	70	2	2
Shops Act	58	79	2	3
Public Conveniences	50	534	—	—

Number of complaints received—250

OTHER VISITS

Visits to houses of T.B. patients	39
Visits to houses following Applications for Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)	11

Visits to houses in connection with Applications for Certificates of Disrepair .Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections in connection with action under Section 11-12, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	344
Inspections in connection with action under Section 25, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	255
Visits to offensive trade and marine store premises	...	...	...	...	...	13
Visits re Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	35
Visits re Mosquito and Midge Breeding Grounds	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspections of places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections of licensed premises (Public Houses and Bars)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Visits by Public Health Inspectors in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	85
Visits under National Assistance Act, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	36
Visits to Corporation Controlled Tip	...	...	...	...	...	23
Visits to Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	22
Visits under Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	20
Visits re Seaweed Flies	...	...	...	...	...	5
Visits to Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	21
Visits to Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	34
Visits to Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
Visits re Chinese Liquid Egg	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	583

A brief summary of some of the more important defects remedied is given below :

Roof repairs	...	...	...	...	...	30
Eaves Guttering and Rainwater Pipes renewed, repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Walls rendered, repaired or pointed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Plasterwork renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	36
Grates renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	54
Drains renewed, repaired or cleared	...	...	...	...	...	103
Repairs to Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cesspools emptied after Notice	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cleansing of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	10

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

	NOTICES			
	Served		Complied	
	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory
Public Health Act, 1936				
House Defects	33	9	54	9
Other Defects	78	7	87	7
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	41	—	47	—
Factories Act, 1937	2	—	2	—
Housing Act ...	3	—	2	—
Prevention of Damage by				
Pests Act, 1949	2	—	2	—
Shops Act, 1950 ...	2	—	3	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

Six visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors in connection with the investigation of infectious diseases and 45 visits in connection with food poisoning cases.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of houses treated for disinfection (infectious diseases)	15
Number of rooms involved ...	24
Number of houses treated for disinfestation ...	28
Number of rooms involved ...	85
Number of articles of bedding, etc., disinfected ...	443
Number of articles destroyed ...	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Survey of action during year.

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(a) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	20	—	—	—
(b) Factories not included in (a) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	122	68	2	—
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises) ...	2	2	—	—
Total ...	144	70	2	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		which pro- secutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	I	I	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective ...	I	I	—	I	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	I	—

(3) Outworkers.

(a) Number of lists received from employers	...	6
(b) Number of employees concerned	...	—
(c) Number of outworkers involved	...	4
(d) Number of outworkers living outside the Borough		—
(e) Number of lists received from outside Authorities		15
(f) Number of outworkers involved	...	32

(4) Total inspections for all purposes (including outworkers).

No. of premises visited	No. of visits including re-visits	Defects found	Defects remedied
60	70	2	2

DEALERS IN OLD METALS

Eight dealers in old metals are registered by the Council under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907. Six visits have been made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are three rag and bone dealers' premises in the Borough, two of which were established prior to the operation of the Public Health Act, 1936. The third was established in 1948 and is subject to the consent of the Town Council being obtained annually. Seven visits have been made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year.

BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE
REGIS.

**METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT**

*Summary for the Year
1956*

Lat.— $50^{\circ} 36' 20''$ N. Long.— $2^{\circ} 26' 50''$ W
21 feet above Sea Level.

J. N. HAMBLY, M.B.E.,

Lt.Cdr. R.N. (Ret.)

Borough Meteorologist

Meteorological Station,

Weymouth

Remarks.

GENERAL

Temperature and rainfall were within the normal averages while more than the average amount of sunshine was recorded.

TEMPERATURE

A very cold spell started on the 1st February, the temperature falling to 17° Fahrenheit on the 2nd of the month.

From the 10th to the 27th, the minimum temperature recorded was never above freezing point (32°). The month ended by the temperature being 9° below average for the period and the year 1° below average.

RAINFALL

This was average, although 4.26 inches, 5.75 inches and 4.77 inches fell in January, September and December respectively.

This was offset by 0.11, 0.55 and 0.79 in February, May and November.

On one occasion only did 1 inch or more fall in 24 hours. This was on September 1st, when 1.04 was recorded.

SUNSHINE

Weymouth recorded the highest number of sunshine hours among mainland towns, a total of 1855 of bright sunshine being recorded during the year, 133 hours above normal. June, July and September were well below the average.

METEOROLOGICAL ABSTRACT

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Highest Shade Temperature (° Fah.)	77	87	83	78	84	78
Lowest Shade Temperature (° Fah.)	28	25	23	18	24	17
Mean Maximum Temperature (° Fah.)	57.5	57.8	57.1	57.2	57.9	56.9
Mean Minimum Temperature (° Fah.)	46.4	45.8	46.1	45.8	44.8	44.6
Mean Temperature (° Fah.)	52.9	51.8	52.3	51.5	51.4	50.7
Total Rainfall (inches)	40.3	29.36	22.6	32.2	34.47	27.88
Hours of Bright Sunshine	1829.0	1885.3	1916.5	1709.0	2009.4	1855.4
Number of Days with Sunshine	306	312	302	288	308	308
Greatest daily amount of Sunshine (hours)	15.0	15.0	14.7	14.4	14.4	14.9
Highest Barometer Reading (inches)	30.622	30.830	30.762	30.641	30.661	30.730
Lowest Barometer Reading (inches)	28.587	29.080	29.271	28.572	28.840	29.021

PRESSURE (Inches) 9-00 a.m.

Barometer Readings at 0900 hours G.M.T., corrected for Temperature and Altitude

1956	Month	Mean	Inches	Highest	Inches	Date	Lowest	Inches	Date	Relative Humidity %
	January	...	29.97	30.54	4th	11th	29.23	...	...	86.2
	February	...	30.27	30.73	3rd	13th	29.76	...	...	69.0
	March,	...	30.00	30.54	8th	21st	29.26	...	...	79.1
	April	...	30.03	30.41	19th	13th	29.55	...	...	73.0
	May	...	30.22	30.52	13th	22nd	29.85	...	...	76.3
	June	...	30.17	30.54	23rd	4th	29.60	...	...	78.9
	July	...	30.05	30.49	25th	29th	29.02	...	...	82.3
	August	...	29.90	30.47	8th	25th	29.39	...	...	79.5
	September	...	30.02	30.32	12th	6th	29.63	...	...	86.8
	October	...	30.22	30.53	13th	18th	29.94	...	...	82.0
	November	...	30.22	30.59	6th	28th	29.68	...	...	82.9
	December	...	30.09	30.55	3rd	30th	29.22	...	...	89.4
	Mean	...	30.09	30.52	3rd Feb.	29th July	29.51	...	...	80.4%

THE WINDS

Observed daily at 0900 G.M.T. to 8 points of the Compass

Month	DIRECTION								
	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm
January	1	6	—	—	1	6	5	1	11
February	—	19	—	—	—	2	2	2	4
March	1	7	12	3	—	1	5	—	2
April	2	9	5	2	—	4	2	2	4
May	3	5	1	1	2	4	11	—	4
June	1	4	—	1	2	12	6	4	—
July	—	4	2	4	1	10	5	1	4
August	—	5	—	2	—	14	7	1	2
September	1	4	9	3	1	6	2	1	3
October	3	7	2	—	—	6	4	1	8
November	4	6	3	—	2	2	5	2	6
December	1	1	1	4	3	7	4	1	9
Year	17	77	35	20	12	74	58	16	57

BRIGHT SUNSHINE

1956 Month	Actual Sunshine (Hours)	Percentage of Average	Greatest Daily Amount (Hours)	Date	Number of		Sunless Days	Cloud Amount 1—8 9 a.m.
					Days with Sunshine Recorded	Days		
January	...	120	6.4	18th	21	10		6.2
February	...	124	8.8	25th	23	6		4.4
March	...	118	11.0	26th	30	1		4.1
April	...	117	12.3	22nd	26	4		3.1
May	...	129	14.6	31st	31	0		4.6
June	...	89	14.9	26th	30	0		5.3
July	...	93	14.4	26th	28	3		5.9
August	...	113	13.0	14th	30	1		4.8
September	...	72	10.2	12th	25	5		6.5
October	...	125	9.3	6th	27	4		3.8
November	...	125	7.8	1st	25	5		5.2
December	...	66	6.6	26th	12	19		7.2
Year	...	107.7	14.9	26th June	308	58		5.09

Yearly Average—1722.2

RAINFALL

1956	TOTAL FALL Inches	FALL m/m	Percentage of Average	Days of 0.2 m/m or more	Wet Days of 1.0 m/m or more	Greatest fall in 24 hours inches	Date
January	...	4.26	108.2	175	18	16	0.82 9th
February	...	0.11	2.8	5	3	1	0.08 13th
March	...	0.77	19.6	37	6	5	0.42 20th
April	...	1.41	35.8	85	7	5	0.50 26th
May	...	0.55	14.0	34	9	7	0.18 9th
June	...	2.26	57.4	127	13	11	0.53 15th
July	...	2.35	59.7	131	14	8	0.89 19th
August	...	2.97	75.4	139	17	14	0.56 1st
September	...	5.76	146.0	274	12	10	1.04 1st
October	...	1.61	40.9	44	13	7	0.54 17th
November	...	0.79	19.1	25	7	4	0.24 8th
December	...	4.77	112.1	137	20	16	0.95 25th
Year	...	27.61	691.0	101.1	139	104	1.04 1st Sept.

TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR (Fah.)

1956 Month	9 a.m. Mean	Max. & Min.		Difference from Average		Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
		Max. Mean	Min. Mean	Max. Mean	Min. Mean				
January	43.1	48.8	37.4	43.1	43.1	55	29th	27	25th
February	33.1	39.3	27.4	33.3	33.3	51	5th	17	2nd
March	45.2	51.6	39.7	45.7	45.7	60	27th	31	13th
April	48.7	54.4	39.3	46.9	46.9	63	11th	31	7th
May	55.8	62.9	45.5	54.2	54.2	74	30th	36	21st
June	58.8	64.9	51.9	58.4	58.4	74	24th	43	15th
July	61.2	67.8	56.2	62.0	62.0	78	24th	52	11th
August	60.6	65.8	53.5	59.7	59.7	71	9th	46	30th
September	60.3	65.1	55.1	60.1	60.1	70	23rd	46	8th
October	54.0	58.8	46.3	52.5	52.5	65	3rd	35	27th
November	46.5	51.8	41.0	46.4	46.4	59	9th	27	23rd
December	46.3	50.4	41.8	46.1	46.1	55	17th	29	22nd
Year	51.1	56.9	44.6	50.7	50.7	78	24th July	17	2nd Feb.

WEYMOUTH SUNSHINE HOURS RECORD SINCE 1895.

Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours
1895 ...	1953.7	1911 ...	2090.9	1927 ...	1692.7	1943 ...	1769.0
1896 ...	1904.0	1912 ...	1582.4	1928 ...	1898.9	1944 ...	1741.1
1897 ...	1827.5	1913 ...	1583.7	1929 ...	2024.1	1945 ...	1564.9
1898 ...	1828.4	1914 ...	1826.8	1930 ...	1803.7	1946 ...	1648.2
1899 ...	2030.2	1915 ...	1729.8	1931 ...	1582.8	1947 ...	1626.2
1900 ...	1624.7	1916 ...	1677.5	1932 ...	1554.4	1948 ...	1877.5
1901 ...	1675.9	1917 ...	1653.5	1933 ...	1987.3	1949 ...	2055.3
1902 ...	1421.4	1918 ...	1804.9	1934 ...	1807.0	1950 ...	1820.6
1903 ...	1554.0	1919 ...	1803.5	1935 ...	1706.2	1951 ...	1828.3
1904 ...	1675.6	1920 ...	1523.4	1936 ...	1549.3	1952 ...	1895.5
1905 ...	1706.9	1921 ...	1934.6	1937 ...	1628.5	1953 ...	1916.5
1906 ...	1908.3	1922 ...	1748.0	1938 ...	1646.6	1954 ...	1711.0
1907 ...	1784.1	1923 ...	1695.6	1939 ...	1786.4	1955 ...	2009.4
1908 ...	1875.9	1924 ...	1687.6	1940 ...	1883.3	1956 ...	1855.0
1909 ...	1938.3	1925 ...	1710.1	1941 ...	1669.0		
1910 ...	1693.7	1926 ...	1554.4	1942 ...	1663.0		

Greatest amount of Sunshine in one year — 2090.9 in 1911

Least amount of Sunshine in one year — 1421.4 in 1902

